

NewsRelease



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MEDIA ADVISORY:

Journalists To Report On Science Team Examining Arctic Ozone

While scientists from NASA, Europe, Russia, Japan and Canada conduct the largest effort yet to assess ozone changes in the Arctic upper atmosphere, reporters will be able to cover the experiment during a "media week" January 21 - 28 in Kiruna, Sweden.

More than 350 researchers are measuring ozone and other atmospheric gases with instruments aboard satellites, airplanes, heavy-lift and small balloons, and on the ground in order to examine the processes that control ozone amounts at mid to high latitudes. The campaign began in November 1999 and continues through this March. NASA's DC-8 and ER-2 research aircraft will be joined by European airplanes during the January/February deployment period of the campaign.

The Earth's ozone layer protects life below from harmful ultraviolet radiation coming from the Sun that can lead to the formation of skin cancers. Scientists have observed unusually low levels of ozone over the Arctic during recent winters, raising concerns that ozone depletion there could become more widespread as in the Antarctic ozone hole.

The campaign is based north of the Arctic Circle in Kiruna Sweden, which can be reached from Stockholm by commercial airlines. "Arena Arctica," a large hangar built especially for research, houses the instrumented aircraft as well as scientists. Balloons are being launched from ESRANGE, a balloon and rocket launch facility near Kiruna. A NASA newsroom will be in the Scandic Hotel Ferrum near the airport during media week. During escorted tours into the research area, journalists may meet with scientists. The NASA-sponsored SAGE III Ozone Loss and Validation Experiment (SOLVE) is being conducted jointly with the European Commission-sponsored Third European Stratospheric Experiment on Ozone (THESEO 2000). More information is on the Internet at:

(SOLVE) -- <http://cloud1.arc.nasa.gov/solve/index.html>
(THESEO 2000) -- <http://www.ozone-sec.ch.cam.ac.uk>
<http://george.arc.nasa.gov/dx/basket/factsheets/FS991103.html>

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